of adverse possessions and enclaves. The Government of India and Bangladesh have set up Joint Boundary Working Groups to address the demarcation of the 6.5 kms. stretch of the boundary as well as the exchange of adverse possessions and enclaves. The Government of India is committed to an early settlement of all boundary related issues with Bangladesh.

Difficulties in availing passports under Tatkal Scheme

952. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "Tatkal Passport only if you pull right strings" which appeared in 'The Statesman' dated 1st July, 2002; highlighting practical difficulties in availing of the "Tatkal" Scheme:

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken, if any, to rationalise the scheme to fulfil its original objective to help the genuine people who need passports in a hurry and are willing to pay more?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, normally Passport are issued on receipt of a clear Police Verificaton Report which *inter-alia* establishes the applicant's nationality and character. Recognising the needs of some applicants for out of turn passports, the Tatkal scheme was introduced by the Government for issue of out of turn passports in cases of genuine urgency on postpolice verification basis. Since in these cases passports are issued before receipt of a clear police report, it was decided that the applicants would need to produce a verification certificate issued by an officer of the Government of India who in effect certifies the applicant's Nationality and antecedents. This is primarily to ensure that criminals and other undesirable elements do not misuse the scheme to obtain passports.

Misuse of DTAA by OCBs

953. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to review Double Tax Avoidance

Agreement (DTAA) with Mauritius country in view of large scale misuse of this route by various OCBs consequent upon which there is a huge revenue loss to Government;

(b) if so, Government's views in his regard;

(c) whether Government have brought this fact to notice of the Mauritius Government regarding misuse of DTAA by some OCBs; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Mauritius authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Subsequent to detection of certain irregularities by Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs), Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has brought out an amendment in Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) regulations on 29 November, 2001 banning fresh investment by OCBs under the Portfolio Investment Scheme (PIS) in India.

(c) and (d) The perceived abuse of treaty provisions was discussed by Indian Finance Minister with Mauritian Deputy Prime Minister & Finance Minister on 8 April, 2002, and in pursuance to these discussions an official level meeting is likely to be held in July, 2002 to review the working of Indo-Mauritius Treaty with reference to any possible misuse of the Treaty and to ensure that there is an effective exchange of information between the competent authorities of the two countries under the Treaty.

Return of personal clothing of Martyrs from Lahore jail

†954. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have demanded from the Lahore jail authorities in Pakistan to hand over the clothes of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru, the Martyrs of freedom-struggle; and

(b) the reasons for not procuring the last clothes of these martyrs from Lahore jail keeping in view, the faith of the billions of people in these martyrs?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.